

# Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs wins prestigious national award

–“The DeBraak and Its Atlantic World” honored with Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History–

On June 18, 2014, the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs received notification from the American Association for State and Local History that the multi-dimensional interpretive program, “The DeBraak and Its Atlantic World,” is a recipient of the 2014 Award of Merit, a component of the association’s Leadership in History Awards program. The award will be presented to Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs representatives on Sept. 19, 2014 during the association’s annual meeting that will take place in St. Paul, Minn.



“The DeBraak and Its Atlantic World” shines a spotlight on His Majesty’s Sloop of War DeBraak, a British warship that was escorting and protecting a convoy of British and American merchant ships en route to the United States when it was

capsized and lost off the Delaware coast on May 25, 1798. The surviving section of the ship's hull and its associated artifact collection have been curated by the division since they were acquired by the state of Delaware in 1992.



Held on Mondays from late spring through early fall, program activities begin at the [Zwaanendael Museum](#), located at 102 Kings Highway in Lewes, Del., where a lecture and video on the ship are presented in conjunction with the exhibit "[A Seaborne Citizenry: The DeBraak and Its Atlantic World](#)." The exhibit tells the story of the vessel, its crew and the historical context within which it operated in the late 18th century. Visitors are then transported, via van, to the DeBraak hull facility in nearby Cape Henlopen State Park for an interpreter-led tour of the surviving section of the ship's hull. Remaining programs during 2014 will be held at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on July 7, 14, 21 and 28; Aug. 4, 11, 18 and 25; and Sept. 8, 15, 22 and 29. For tickets and additional information, go to the [Shop Delaware website](#) or call 302-645-1148.



The American Association for State and Local History's [Leadership in History Awards](#) program was initiated in 1945 to establish and encourage standards of excellence in the collection, preservation and interpretation of state and local history throughout the United States. Leadership in History Awards not only honor significant achievement in the field of state and local history, but also bring public recognition of the opportunities for small and large organizations, institutions and programs to make contributions in this arena.

The [American Association for State and Local History](#) is a not-for-profit professional organization of individuals and institutions working to preserve and promote history. From its headquarters in Nashville, Tenn., the association provides leadership, service and support for its members who preserve and interpret state and local history in order to make the past more meaningful in American society.



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